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R 040841Z DEC 08  
FM AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0685  
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 003799

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

STATE PLEASE PASS TO USDA/FAS OGA GRIFFIN, SHEAN  
STATE ALSO PASS TO USDA/FAS OCRA ALLEN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAGR](#) [ECON](#) [ETRD](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: IRAQ AGRICULTURE: RAIN FUELS EXPECTATION OF NORMAL GRAIN  
PRODUCTION

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

¶1. (SBU) Substantial general, at times locally very heavy, rain arrived 29 November, providing much needed moisture for rain-fed wheat and barley production in the 2009/10 crop year. Based on accumulated rainfall data from the Ministry of Agriculture, this event provided ample moisture for seeding and germination of dry land wheat and barley production from Ninawa Province in the north through the central provinces of Iraq. MoA is extremely pleased and relieved with the arrival of rain, especially following the severe drought experienced in Iraq for the 2008/2009 crop. MoA reported rainfall totals are listed in paragraph 4.

¶2. (SBU) FAS/Baghdad preliminary analysis indicates this rainfall is sufficient to maintain a forecast of normal wheat and barley production, 2.0 and 1.0 million metric tons respectively, for the 2009/10 marketing year as of this date. Additional rainfall for the rain fed grain areas will still be required to bring this forecast to reality.

¶3. (SBU) Rice production remains a question of how much irrigation water will be allocated for the crop. A decision by the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) has yet to be publicized. However, Iraqi reservoir levels are reported to be below those of the previous crop season, when MoWR restricted the application of irrigation water for rice production. Local analysts expect MoWR to again restrict water availability for rice irrigation based on reported reservoir levels.

¶4. (SBU) According to Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) officials, rainfall accumulations were recorded as follows:

PROVINCE	LOCALE	REPORTED RAINFALL 29-30 Nov (mm)
Bagdad	Baghdad	42.1
Baghdad	Airport	5.8
Ninawa	Mosul	32.8
Ninawa	Sinjar	0.8
Ninawa	Rabiaa	7.9
Ninawa	Telaafar	11.0
Salah ad Din	Tikrit	11.3
Salah ad Din	Samarraa	18.0
Ta'mim	Kirkuk	5.3
Ta'Mim	Tuzkhurmato	12.4
Ta'Mim	Chumchama	14.3
Wasit	Al-Hay	14.5
Wasit	Al-Azzizia	23.8
Wasit	Badra	34.8
Maysan	Omara	20.4
Maysan	Ali Al-Gharbi	23.2
Dahuk	Dahuk	38.0
Dahuk	Zakho	36.6
Dahuk	Makhmur	18.2
Karbal'	Karbala	1.1
Najaf	Najaf	0.5
Qadisiyah	Diwaniyah	8.3

Al Anbar	Ramadi	6.1
Basrah	Al-Faw	0.7
Babil	Hilla	1.8

SOURCE: MoA Unpublished Data  
CROCKER